



# TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON 25

OFFICE OF  
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT

IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

July 16, 1954

Mr. Harry X. Boessel  
2635 Balmoral Avenue  
Chicago 25, Illinois

Dear Sir:

In reference to your letter of July 9, 1954, you are advised that the United States Mint has manufactured coins in the past for the Government of Saudi Arabia, and also for many other foreign governments since passage of permissive law by the Congress of the United States in 1874.

Contracts for the manufacture of foreign coins by the United States Mint are made only with the governments concerned, the duly accredited representative of the foreign government making application through the Department of State to the Secretary of the Treasury. Foreign coins are minted in accordance with legally prescribed standards and devices of such country for which they are made.

Coins manufactured by the United States for the Government of Saudi Arabia, dating back to 1944, have included the following denominations: Silver riyals, half-riyals, and quarter-riyals; cupronickel girsh, half-girsh, and quarter-girsh; and gold disks.

Physical properties of the gold disks, about which you have particularly inquired, made in 1945 and 1947, were as follows: The ~~fineness or pure gold~~ content was 916-2/3, the other 8-1/3 parts being copper. The 91,210 disks *LARGE* made in 1945 had an individual gross weight of 493.09788 grains consisting of 452.00639 grains of gold and 41.09149 grains of copper. The 121,364 disks *SMALL* made in 1947 had an individual gross weight of 123.27447 grains consisting of 113.0016 grains of gold and 10.27287 grains of copper.

Since the weight and metallic content of coins containing precious metals are often referred to in terms of the troy ounce, the corresponding troy weights of the gold disks are set forth below. A troy ounce contains 480 grains.

Government of  
Saudi Arabia  
gold disks

Gross weight  
per disk  
Troy ounce

Fine weight  
of gold  
per disk  
Troy ounce

Made in 1945 --  
Made in 1947 --

1.0273  
0.2568

0.9417  
0.2354

If interested in factual details regarding the issue of the Saudi Arabian gold disks, or any foreign coins manufactured by United States Mints, requests for such information should be addressed directly to the monetary issuing authority of the government concerned.

Very truly yours,

  
Assistant Director of the Mint



## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

OFFICE OF  
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT

### SAUDI ARABIAN GOLD DISCS

During the mid-Forties, the United States Government manufactured gold discs for the Government of Saudi Arabia. There were two such discs, of different sizes, struck in 1945, 1946 and 1947. The smaller one had a gross weight of 123.27447 grains consisting of 113.0016 grains of gold and 10.27287 grains of copper. There were 121,364 of these discs made in 1947.

The larger ones, made in 1945 and 1946, had an individual gross weight of 493.09788 grains consisting of 452.00639 grains of gold and 41.09149 grains of copper. 91,210 of these were made. The composition was 916-2/3rds parts gold and 83-1/3rd parts copper. The order was processed at the Philadelphia Mint.

These discs are not coin. The Saudi Arabian Government requested the Mint to sell them small gold bars of a certain weight. In the first place, it is very difficult to pour small gold bars of even an approximate weight, much less an exact weight. Also, it is very expensive as much labor is required. The bars are hand-poured. In order to supply the gold in question, it was suggested that a more accurate weight could be had by rolling and cutting a disc of a certain weight. On all gold and silver bars sold by a Mint institution, an impression was placed thereon, showing what institution made them. This is a hand operation, using a hammer and a die punch. In this case, the discs were run through a press and the impressions stamped on the disc with a die that was prepared for this purpose, and with approximately the same design as the one used to mark bars, an eagle design.

These pieces were manufactured from gold transferred to that country for dollar credits the Saudi Arabian Government had in this country. We have no information as to the actual internal circulation in Saudi Arabia.



*Keep Freedom in Your Future With U.S. Savings Bonds*

1873-1873

HARRY X BOOSEL

P.O. BOX 9132 — NORTH TOWN STATION  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60619

16th Dec 1975

Dear Eric:

This may be up your alley-

A local dealer- not a nationally prominent one, a few years ago, knowingly purchased about 8,000 counterfeit pieces, almost all colonials- the list is attached, as well as 120 samples- the pencil figures indicate about how many of each.

I don't know what he had in mind originally- he asked me just yesterday what he should do- he has about \$5,000 in it. He will not release them as-is- He is considering getting a steel stamp about like this: COPY and stamping them all, incuse.

They could not deceive anyone half-way knowing, but novices could and are being taken in by others.

He mentioned that after he stamps them "copy" he could retail them as copies and at least get his money back. One thing I am sure, is that he will NOT put them out as they are, or he wouldn't have asked my advice.

From the list, it looks like they went right down the Guide Book-

He did not mention what the "price " means on the list. Perhaps that was going to be the "retail price? Next year would find a good market for them- even as copies.

May I have your thinking on this?

Regards,



P.S. On the Saudi pieces- I never received an answer to my letter to Eleanor Hayden-sent in Sept. (about the dies). I sent my letter (copy ) to Hoskins and asked him to follow-up. At the November meetings of the Chicago Coin Club and Morton Grove Coin Club I gave a talk on the discs. Both were well received. Will forward my entire file to Bressett after Christmas.

Glad to hear you are on the CSNS panel in May.

PLEASE RETURN LIST AND SAMPLES



ANA 4343  
LM 77

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 22, 1975

Mr. Harry X. Boesel  
P. O. Box 59132 -  
Northtown Station  
Chicago, IL 60659

Dear Harry:

Your letter with respect to Colonial copies is right up my alley. I keep an extensive file of Colonial copies and would appreciate it very much if one could be sent to me of each type that this person has. I will be glad to return any of those which I already have. It is important that such a file be kept. I have a principle that I do not ever buy a copy.

With respect to the commercial problem, I believe these copies were made before the effective date of the Hobby Protection Act and, therefore, there is no legal requirement to stamp them with the word COPY.

The owner apparently will not put them out as they are, but I would encourage him to sell them off in bulk and get his money out of it if he can rather than try to ease his conscience by stamping them and then be responsible for putting fakes out to the collector. I do not see how a man who has high standards as he appears to have would have gotten so deeply involved. Incidentally, I will be glad to give him some other fakes which I might have in duplicate if he wants them. You were nice enough to send me his number 10 and his number 48. Please convince him of the importance of letting me complete my group to the extent his pieces may be helpful. I am holding the pieces tentatively.

My kindest regards for the Holiday.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah



1873-1873

HARRY X BOOSEL  
P.O. BOX 34132 — NORTHTOWN STATION  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60659  
19th January 1976

Dear Eric:

My party here in Chicago is somewhat reluctant to part with one of each that was on the list- He says they were made by Becker in New York who sold them to someone else and that party sold them to my friend here in Chicago. He says you may already know of these copies. They were bought as copies.

Did I send you the list of what he has? They almost follow the Red book on the list.

Have you seen in December and prior issues of the Numismatist in the classified ads where someone in Minnesota is offering a \$5 million replica collection of 25 colonials for \$16.? (Oct thru Dec)

Happy to see that you will be on the CSNS panel here in Chicago in May. Will you be here for the International show in March? We plan to join the Israeli tour Mar 11 thru 25, so will miss the Int. show, but will see you at CSNS.

Let me hear your thoughts on the colonials, and if I didnot send you a list, will do so.

Regards,



ANA 4343  
LM 77



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

February 3, 1976

Mr. Harry X. Boosel  
P. O. Box 59132 Northtown Station  
Chicago, IL 60659

Dear Harry:

Thank you for your latest letter advising that these counterfeits are Becker counterfeits. Thus, they were made before the Hobby Protection Act and do not have to be stamped "copy". That ought to make your friend befriend me as that avoids stamping them.

I have the copy of the list you sent and would so much like to see one of each. I'll send him something he likes if he will send one of each of the fakes to me. I'll return what I already have. I refused to buy the Becker pieces, although I have the advertising for them. I am interested to see if they are electros from genuine coins, electros from fakes, newly created fakes, etc.

Please tell your friend that I do continual work on fakes for the benefit of numismatics and have quantities submitted to me by authentication service (I do not announce this) of the ANACS. I need them for my reference collection of fakes.

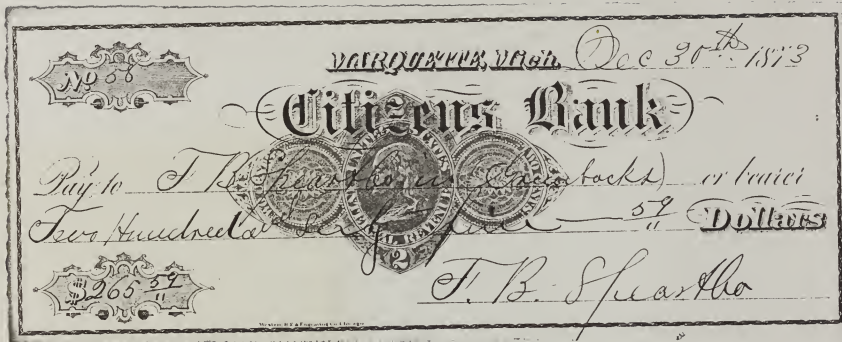
I am glad you are going to Israel. I just promised to raise some money for the university at Beersheba. Have a great trip and keep the peace. I expect Lebanon to break out again so the P.L.O. can get a country of their own.

Thanks for your help,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah





DEAR ERIC:

11-21

REVERSE OF CHECK WAS UNENDORSED - BLANK -  
WE WILL BE WITH NANCY + CHARLIE THURSDAY  
THANKSGIVING + WILL SEE MRS JUDGE -  
WILL LEAVE SAT. AFTERNOON - ONLY FLIGHTS  
WE COULD GET AT THIS LATE DATE -  
SORRY I MISSED YOUR PRESENTATION -  
COPY OF MY REWRITE ENCLOSED -

ALL THE BEST

Harry

Pro-1344

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

April 15, 1981

Mr. Harry X. Boosel  
P. O. Box 59132  
Northtown Station  
Chicago, IL 60659

Dear Harry:

The Burnie fictitious auction and the correspondence relating to it was fascinating. It was a masterpiece of swindlership.

Our library is pleased to have your complete writings on 1873 and thank you for filling that omission.

My very best to you.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah



*American Numismatic Association*

HARRY X BOOSEL

GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 59132 • CHICAGO • ILLINOIS 60659

4/10

DEAR ERIC:

THANK FOR THE BOOKLET ON THE  
FAKE BARS —

ENCLOSED IS YOUR OWN COPY OF MY  
BOOK — ABOUT 4<sup>TH</sup> BINDING — WITH 4 SUPPLEMENTS  
IN THE BINDING, AND THE LAST 3 LOOSE.

ALSO ENCLOSED IS THE FAKE BURNIE  
AUCTION —

REGARDS

ANA-4343 !

LM 77

June 30, 1982

Harry X Boosel  
Box 59132  
Northtown Station  
Chicago IL 60659

Dear Mr. Boosel:

I don't know if you would be interested in this, but I thought I would mention it to you because it could be a real "sleeper" in making a lot of money with very little investment.

A group of us in the south are considering investing in a large cat ranch near Karmossville, Mexico. It is our purpose to start rather small, with about one million cats. Each cat averages about twelve kittens per year. Skins can be sold for about 20 cents for the white ones and about 40 cents for the black. This will give us 12 million cats per year to sell at an average price of around 32 cents, making a revenue of about \$3. million a year. This really averages out to ten thousand dollars a day, excluding Sundays and holidays.

A good Mexican cat man can skin about 30 cats a day at a wage of \$3.15 per day. It will take only 663 men to operate the ranch so that the net profit will be over \$8,200.00 per day.

Now, the cats would be fed on rats exclusively. Rats multiply four times as fast as cats. We would start a rat ranch next door to the cat ranch. If we start with one million rats, we will have four rats per day per cat. The rats will be fed on the carcasses of the cats we skin. This will give each rat one-quarter of the cat. You can see by this that the business is a clean operation - self-supporting and really automatic throughout. The cats will eat the rats and the rats will eat the cats and we will get the skins.

Let me know if you are interested; as you can imagine, we are rather particular about who we want in this, and want the fewest investors possible.

Eventually, it is our hope to cross the cats with snakes, as they will then be able to skin themselves twice a year. This would save us the labor costs as well as give us two skins per year per cat.

Sincerely,

*Joe*  
Joseph Clabberlips  
123 Easy St.  
Kopo Junction LA 11111

12 THE BOSTON GLOBE THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1982

### Sheds \$500 and gets skinned in the process

Associated Press

ADELAIDE, Australia - An Australian businessman was duped out of \$500 for shares in a nonexistent Mexican ranch where cats were to be crossed with snakes so the offspring could "shed" their fur, police said yesterday. A letter sent by the swindler said the fur would net \$3 million a year. As an economy measure, the cats were to be fed on rats raised at a neighboring "rat ranch" and, in turn, the rats were to be fed on the cat carcasses. Eventually, said the letter, it was hoped to cross the cats with snakes who shed their skin twice a year, thus eliminating labor costs for skinning and getting two skins a year from each cat. The swindler has been arrested. Neither he nor the businessman was named.

1873-1873

HARRY X BOOSEL-NLG

PROFESSIONAL NUMISMATIST  
P.O. BOX 59132 — NORTH TOWN STATION  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60659

9-11-82

DEAR ERIC —

HERE'S YOUR COPY OF THE "CATS,  
RATS + SNAKES".

STARTED TO SEND THIS TO CECIL  
ADDRESS, BUT DIDN'T HAVE THE ZIP, SO  
CHANGED IT TO THE P.O.

DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO CONGRATULATE  
YOU ON THE "CLEMY" — CONGRATS!

NANCI + CHARLIE ARE FINALLY TAKING  
A VACATION — A CRUISE FROM MIAMI TO JAMAICA,  
THE CAYMENS AND COZUMEL — WE HOPE TO  
BE IN MIAMI SEP 28<sup>TH</sup> TO MEET THEM  
OCT 1 — AND WHEN THEY RETURN OCT 10 —

HOPE YOU AND EVELYN ARE WELL,  
AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS —

Harry + Tillie



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

September 14, 1982

Mr. and Mrs. Harry X. Boosel  
Box 59132  
Northtown Station  
Chicago, IL 60659

Dear Tillie and Harry:

Thank you very much for the congratulations on the literary award and for the published story on the rats and cats swindle. The way you told the story puts all newspaper comments to shame.

I am pleased that Nanci and Charlie will be with you in Florida after their vacation and I hope you have a delightful winter.

Evelyn joins me in sending you our best greetings for the holidays.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah  
Encl.

P.S. I do not have the address of Lee Hewitt and wanted to send him the enclosed envelope. Would you be kind enough to address and mail it for me.

EPN



*American Numismatic Association*

HARRY X BOOSEL

GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 59132 • CHICAGO • ILLINOIS 60659

7-18

DEAR ERIC:

JUST A NOTE TO TELL YOU I HAVE  
NOT FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE CONGRESSIONAL  
RECORD OF CITATIONS ON ABUSERS OF  
COMMEMORATIVE COINAGE - 1937

I LOANED IT TO MARGO WHO MAY  
PUT IT IN NEXT WEEK'S COIN WORLD.

SHE WILL RETURN IT TO ME IN NEW ORLEANS,  
NOT WANTING TO TRUST THE MAILS - IF YOU  
WILL BE THERE, THE DOCUMENTS WILL BE TURNED  
OVER TO YOU - IF NOT, I'M MAIL THEM - REGISTERED -  
FROM FLORIDA -

REGARDS

*Harry*

(over)



I WAS ON THE EDUCATIONAL PANEL AT METROPOLITAN  
WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC ASSN'S JULY 11<sup>TH</sup> WITH  
CLEMONS, DIRECTOR BUREAU OF ENGRAVING.

THURS WE LEAVE CHICAGO FOR ST. LOUIS TO SEE OUR  
DAUGHTER + CHARLIE -

FRIDAY WE LEAVE FOR NEW ORLEANS

THEN SUN OR MON - AUG 2 OR 3 WE LEAVE  
FOR OUR FLORIDA CONDO -

WILL STAY THERE UNTIL MID-OR LATE

SEPT

Mr. Harry X Boosel  
3770 N. E. 171st Street  
N. Miami Beach, FL 33160

→ PHONE 305-947-1873!

JB

HARRY X BOOSEL - NLG

PROFESSIONAL NUMISMATIST

P.O. BOX 59293 — NORTH TOWN STATION  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60659

2-23-90

EDITOR - COIN WORLD  
911 VANDEMARK ROAD  
SIDNEY OHIO 45365

COPY  
TO ERIC

ON PAGE 3 OF THE FEB 28TH ISSUE OF COIN WORLD  
THE SECOND ARTICLE (PCGS REGRADES BARBER GOLD  
PATTERN SET) CONTRADICTS THE FIRST ARTICLE  
(SUPERIOR TO OFFER KING OF SIAM PROOF SET).

SPECIFICALLY, THE LAST PARAGRAPH IN THE  
SECOND COLUMN OF THE SECOND ARTICLE STATES:

"THERE WERE NO CHANGES IN THE GRADES  
FOR THE NINE COINS IN THE KING OF SIAM SET."

IN THE 3RD PARAGRAPH IN THE FIRST COLUMN  
OF THE FIRST ARTICLE IT STATES: "FOUR OF THE  
NINE COINS IN THE SET RECEIVED ONE-GRADE  
POINT HIGHER WHEN REGRADED BY PCGS."

IN A PREVIOUS COIN WORLD, THERE WAS  
AN ARTICLE THAT SHOWED THE FIRST ARTICLE  
ON PAGE 3 HAD THE CORRECT STORY.

SO MUCH FOR CONSISTENCY. IF YOU SENT  
COINS IN FOR GRADING AND SLABBING, IT IS  
OBVIOUS WHICH GRADING SERVICE WOULD GET  
THE BUSINESS. (OR WOULD YOU GET THE BUSINESS?)

NAME & ADDRESS

WITHHELD BY REQUEST

Harry Boesel



ANA 4343  
LM 77

★MNC★

Registered in England  
No. 1414874

# MONNAIES NUMISMATIC CONSULTANTS LTD.

INTERNATIONAL NUMISMATIC ANTI-FORGERY BUREAU

P.O. Box 52, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4JR

Managing Director: Ernest G.V. Newman, OBE, BSc, ARSM, FIM, FRIC

Telephone (0252) 726961

To

Mr Michael J Druck  
Stack's  
123 West 57th Street  
New York  
N Y 10019-2280  
U S A

Invoice No.

Date 15 May 1992

## Switzerland. 5 Franken 1873 B.

Weight: 24.8763 grammes - lower than I would expect from a worn coin of standard weight 25 grammes

Specific Gravity: 10.33

Fineness: Silver approx. 900 parts per 1000

Diameter: 37.28/37.22 mm. (E-W/N-S)

Obverse: Defective. The first E, the T and the A of HELVETICA are badly formed. The seated maiden, the shield of arms and the design to the left and to the right lack detail, whilst the interstices between individual details of the design are 'bubbly' and typical of a cast structure. The bottoms of the letters of A. BOVY are poor. The field shows defects foreign to a struck coin. The beads are poor and many of the interstices between are 'filled in'.

Reverse: Defective. The beads and interstices between are better than on the obverse. The two-part wreath of branches of alpine rose to the right and oak to the left tied together with a bow are defective, in that all their surfaces are 'bubbly' and foreign to those found on a struck piece. The form of the letters of Fr, the pellet thereafter and the 3 of the date numerals are defective. The indentation on the rim/edge immediately above the 5 of the denomination is not due to a knock but is, I suspect, where the 'runner' - the feed channel for the molten metal to enter the mould - has been broken off rather than cut off, shows a cast structure. The counterfeiter could not repair this defect.

Edge: Milled. Many of the notches and the teeth are misshapen and not an effect due to wear in circulation. Indeed, the milling is not typical of that of a genuine coin - struck in and ejected from a collar.

Obv./Rev.:



## COUNTERFEIT.

A cast coin. The detailed examination was carried out using optical microscopy at magnifications up to x80, when all the casting defects become plainly visible.

*E. G. V. Newman*

E G V Newman



American Numismatic Association

HARRY X BOOSEL

FORMER GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 59233 • CHICAGO • ILLINOIS 60659

1 DEAR ERIC -

5-1-86

RECEIVED YOUR NOTE -

ENCLOSED ANOTHER ONE FROM WORLD COIN NEWS.

AFTER I GOT THIS ONE, I CALLED CLIFF  
MISITLEN, PUBLISHER OF KRAUSE IN IOLA.

HE SAID HE HAD NOT NOTICED THE ADS,  
BUT HE KNEW ABOUT THE BARS, AND WOULD  
TAKE SOME ACTION.

I OFFERED TO FURNISH HIM A COPY OF  
THE MEXICAN PUBLICATION, BUT HE WAS SURE  
THEIR LIBRARY HAD ONE.

I ALSO TOLD HIM ONE OF THE ADS  
HAD A BAR PICTURED IN THE MEX. PUB.!

WE'LL SEE WHAT COMES OF THIS.

REGARDS

Dear Eric:

6-1-86

Why is it that when I see something like this, two names immediately come to mind (Ford & Franklin).

Somewhere in the back of my mind, I remember reading somewhere, that when they wanted pure metal, they had to retrieve something that had sunk in the sea prior to 1945, when the first atom bomb was exploded in the atmosphere.

Seems that anything fabricated after that date had some vague kind of radioactive particles in it.

Would this be some kind of test that could be made on antiques to determine if the metal was fabricated after 1945?

Regards,

H

1873-1873

HARRY X BOOSEL-NLG

PROFESSIONAL NUMISMATIST  
P.O. BOX 5973 — NORTH TOWN STATION  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60659

DEAR ERIC -

ENCLOSED IS A COPY OF WHAT I PLAN TO  
DISCUSS AT COAC AT ANS.

PLEASE TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK OF IT.

REGARDING THE LITTLE JOKE IN THE  
2ND PARAGRAPH, I PLAN TO EXHIBIT A  
CASE FULL (ABOUT 50!) 1873 NO ARROWS CLOSED  
3 HALVES.

HOPE YOU ARE WELL -

REGARDS



ANA 4343  
LM 77

1

The Silver Coinage of 1873, and the Crime of 1873

My subject is, of course, the Silver Coinage of 1873, and the so-called Crime of 1873. My learned colleagues have been discussing America's silver coinage for two days now, and that leaves me to discuss my favorite subject, and I thank you for the privilege. I hope I will not keep you too long.

Perhaps you have seen my exhibit of 1873 no arrows halves? It reminds me of an incident that happened a number of years ago. I met a friend of mine who appeared to be disconsolate. I asked him what was wrong. He told me: "My psychiatrist thinks I'm crazy because I like potato pancakes." So I told him that everybody likes potato pancakes and I do, too. He immediately answered, "You do? Well, why don't you come over to my house, I have a closet full!" However, I can assure you, that even though I like 1873, I do not have a closet full of 1873 halves!

Two happenings occurred in 1873 that contributed to making that year produce the largest varieties of silver coins of any year, without regard to die breaks, recutting of dies, errors, etc. We will deal primarily with the Philadelphia Mint, since there are no varieties in silver coins from the branch mints of Carson City and San Francisco in 1873, except, perhaps the size and location of mint marks.

The first happening was a letter from A. Loudon Snowden, Chief Coiner of the Philadelphia Mint, to the Honorable James Pollock, Director of the Mint and it is dated January 18th, 1873. It is a short letter, of which I have a copy. Here is the text:

I desire in a formal manner to direct your attention to the "figures" used in dating the dies for the present year.

They are so heavy, and the space between each, so small, that upon the smaller gold and silver, and upon the base coins, it is impossible to distinguish with the naked eye, whether the last figure is an eight or a three.

In our ordinary coinage, many of the pieces are not fully brought up, and upon such it is impossible to distinguish what is the last figure of this year's date.

I do not think it creditable to the institution that the coinage of the year should be issued bearing this defect in the date.



I would recommend that an entire new set of figures, avoiding the defects of those now in use, be prepared at the earliest possible day. "

This, of course, resulted in the now famous "Open and Closed 3's" of 1873. I never could understand why no one discovered or publicized this before I started working on 1873, thirty-six years ago. The one exception is Beistle, who did mention an 1873 half-dollar with a "3" more Open than the others without arrows.

Most research on coins is accomplished by studying the actual coins themselves. But based on this letter, which I found in the Archives, and Beistle, I set out to find the Open and Closed 3's, and, of course, I did.

However we are dealing with the 1873 silver. The other happening was the Coinage Act of 1873, approved by President Grant on February 12th 1873, to take effect as of April 1st, 1873. Can we attribute anything significant to the date: April 1st?

The Act changed the weight of the dimes, quarters, and halves, to metric standards, increasing their weights an infinitesimal amount. The dimes were increased by .01 grams, the quarters by .03 grams, and the halves by .06 grams. However, since the Act specifically designated the coins to be minted, and their weights, it was illegal to issue any silver coins minted prior to April 1st 1873, after that date, which did not conform to the Act, including the standard silver dollar which was not even mentioned in the Act.

So, we have the following silver coins minted in 1873 at Philadelphia prior to April 1st: the 3¢ piece; half-dime; dime-quarter and half without arrows, and the standard silver dollar, none of which could be issued after April 1st 1873 because they did not conform to the Act.

A precedent had been set in 1853 for a weight change in silver coins, so the mint followed that in 1873 by placing arrows at the sides of the dates in the dimes, quarters and halves to show the minute increase in weight. But the 3¢ piece, half-dime and standard silver dollar were not mentioned in the Act and they were discontinued. The Trade dollar was included in the Act, and coinage of Trade dollars commenced on July 11th, 1873, after much to-do about designs.

So we have ten (10) different silver coins that were issued in 1872, without regard to the Open and Closed 3's. They are: the 3¢ silver, the half dime, two different dimes, quarters and halves, and two different dollars, all from the Philadelphia Mint. Of course, we have the Open and Closed 3's, small and large arrows in the halves, as well as what I call the 4-striper, a bounced die, in the small arrows half, etc- Actually by just using an ordinary magnifying glass of low power, we can come up with at least sixteen (16) different silver coins from the Philadelphia Mint in non-proof, as well as ten (10) proofs, making 26 different silver coins of 1873! All from the Philadelphia Mint!

Then if we count the silver coins from the Branch Mints, we come up with seven (7) more from San Francisco, and eight (8) more from Carson City, making forty one (41) in all, different silver coins minted in 1873. Some, of course, are non-collectable. For the record, from San Francisco we have the half-dime, half without arrows and the Standard Silver Dollar, and dimes, quarters and halves with arrows as well as the Trade Dollar. From Carson City we have the dime, quarter and half without arrows, the Standard Silver Dollar, the dime, quarter and half with arrows and the Trade Dollar.

Oh yes, I almost forgot the easily discernable variety of the Philadelphia dime with arrows- High and Low date, making forty-two (42) varieties in all!

Before we get into the Crime of 1873, are there any questions on the silver coinage of 1873?

- - - - -

Now, let us deal with the Coinage Act of 1873, itself, often referred to as the "Crime of 1873". Why was it called a "Crime", and was it really? In my memory, no one has really explained why it was considered a crime.

The Act of Congress that finally became the Coinage Act of 1873 had a long and devious history, going back at least to 1867. In that year, an International Monetary Conference was held in Paris, and our representative was Samuel B. Ruggles, a member of the Chamber of Commerce of New York. Senator Sherman of Ohio, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, conveyed a message to him to press for a single standard of value: GOLD.

In June 1868, the year following the Paris Conference, Sherman made a report to the United States in favor of "a single standard exclusively of gold", and introduced bills in the two succeeding Congresses to effect that object.

The second one was a bill in the

Senate including "revising the laws relating to the mints, assay offices and coinage of the United States ",this on April 28th 1870. The introduced bill was accompanied by letters of approbation from the Secretary of the Treasury Boutwell, Deputy Comptroller Knox and various reports and recommendations from subordinate officials of the Treasury Department and the Mint. But there was nothing in any of the reports that showed the slightest comprehension of the economic effect of dropping the silver dollar or of demonetizing silver.

On January 9th 1871, the Senate Committee favored the bill which was passed in the Senate on January 10th and was sent to the House. The bill was bandied back and forth in the House, and then on the 27th of May in 1872, Mr. Hooper of Massachusetts offered a substitute bill, which, after much argument, was finally voted and approved, WITHOUT HAVING EVEN BEEN READ!

This same Mr. Hooper, in a debate in the House on April 19th,1872, let drop a remark which may help explain the origin of the deep-laid plot to change the money standard for the United States. He made this admission: " Mr. Ernest Seyd, of London,(remember ths name-Ernest Seyd) a distinguished writer, who has given great attention to the mints and coinage, after examining the first draft of the bill, has furnished many valuable suggestions, which have been incorporated in this bill." It would be interesting to know just what parts of the bill Mr. Seyd furnished. It is hardly probable that he came all the way from England to make suggestions about the practical running of our mints, or about the devices on our coins.

I have an obscure pamphlet on the Crime of 1873, from which much of my material has been taken. It was printed toward the end of the last century, by the American Bimetallic Union which had two addresses: Sun Building, Washington, D.C., and 134 Monroe Street in Chicago. It was reprinted revised and enlarged from "Silver in the Fifty-First Congress". Therein is an affidavit, dated 9th May 1892, sworn to before a Clerk of the Colorado Supreme Court, by a prominent Coloradan, who stated that Mr. Ernest Seyd of London, told him in February 1874: "If you will pledge me your honor as a gentleman not to divulge what I am about to tell you while I live..." The pledge was given and at the time of the affidavit, Seyd was deceased. Seyd continued:" I went to America in the winter of 1872-3, authorized to secure, if I could, passage of a bill demonetizing silver. It was in the interests of those I represented - the Governors of the Bank of England- to have it done. I took with

me 100,000 pounds sterling (about \$500,000 in our money) with instructions if that was not sufficient to accomplish the object, to draw another 100,000 pounds, or as much as was necessary. German Bankers were also interested in having it accomplished. I saw the Committees of the House and Senate, paid the money and stayed in America until I knew the measure was safe."

Let me quote the Honorable Thomas Fitch of Nevada at a later Silver Convention in St. Louis:" That the nation which consumes 50% and produces but 7% of the world's supply of silver, beguiled the nation which produces nearly 50%, and consumes 25% of the world's supply of silver into a conspiracy to strike 35% of the value of silver. The nation which is the biggest importer of wheat in the world, inveigled the nation which is the greatest exporter of wheat in the world into a financial and commercial dead-fall where 35% was taken from the value of the wheat. The nation whose looms would be idle, and whose people would be hungry, and whose government would be upheaved upon a storm of riot without a supply of American cotton, deceived the nation which is the biggest producer of cotton into striking 35% of the value of the cotton. Why, Gentlemen, England is the bunco steerer of the world, and Uncle Sam is the gentleman from the rural districts" (Amid great applause)

So now we know who was responsible for the Crime of 1873. Let us now try to tell you of some of the effects. Here are a few things that the Coinage Act of 1873 changed:

1. The Act destroyed free coinage- prior to its enactment, anyone could bring foreign silver coins or bullion to the mints and have it coined into U.S. silver coins free of charge. The Act abolished this and depositors had to sell it to the mints or have it cast in ingots. The only exception to this was that it could be coined into Trade Dollars. But these were being discounted by merchants and no one really wanted them.

2. In abolishing the standard silver dollar by omitting it from the Act, the Act stated that the gold dollar of 25 8/10 grains was the new monetary standard of the United States. In effect it demonetized silver. It is interesting to note that the Act defined the weight of the silver coins in "grams" and the gold in "grains". Prior to the Act, all gold minted in the United States was stated in values equal to silver dollars, which had been the standard, and the same weight from the inception of the Mint to 1873. Gold

coins had been changed in weight, twice before this.

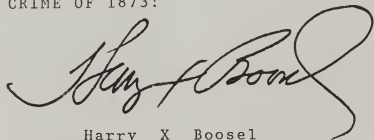
3. Silver coins changed from unlimited legal tender to only \$5.00. Inadvertently, the Trade Dollar also became legal tender to \$5.00 although this was not intended. This was later rescinded, and the Trade Dollar was actually later demonetized. It is the only U.S. Coin ever repudiated. Earlier this century they could be purchased for less than a dollar!

At the time the Act passed, specie payments had not been resumed, the public debt was enormously high (for those days), and the Civil War debt had not been repaid. Most of the paper held for our debt was held in Europe, and it was in Europe's interest that the War Debt be paid in gold! We believe we have already fixed the blame for the Act.

In effect by demonetizing silver, half the metal in which the War Debt was payable was deprived of monetary use and the other half was almost doubled in value.

Congress debated for many years after 1873, trying to fix the blame for the Crime of 1873, and trying to nullify the effects of the Act. The Congressional Record, periodicals and newspapers were full of debates, and accusations. Even most of the Legislators were not aware of the enormity of the Act and its far-reaching effects, that they had passed.

It would take far more than the time allotted to detail all the effects of the Coinage Act of 1873, but I believe that we have established that it really was a Crime, we have fixed the blame, and detailed some of its effects. IT really was: THE CRIME OF 1873!



Harry X Boosel

Harry Boosel  
P. O. Box 59293  
Nashville Station  
Chicago, IL 60659

Sept 18, 1986

Dear Harry:

Your article is fascinating and excellent. I am complimented by you asking me to review and make suggestions. You will have to pardon me for trying so hard to make it more publishable. I hope you will not feel that you must follow any of my suggestions. You should do exactly what you think is best, regardless of what I have interlined. I am a perfectionist or I try to be, so I am not being critical - only clarifying some things and taking the folksy parts out so it can be published without excessive editing. Send me the revision please.

First - you must have footnotes and citations for all factual material used as a basis. You should also refer to all of your other writing on 1873 in some footnotes such as: For other details and history of U.S. 1873 coinage see: . Whenever I put a ○ that means put in a footnote number.

Erwin & I are going to Europe in a few days. We hope you have had a good summer and enjoy your grandchildren. We just work and travel, - to try to keep up our action packed lives.

You have certainly done numismatics a great favor for being so stabilizing in the political side. Don't stop keep everyone and everyone in line.

My very best to both of you,



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

October 23, 1986

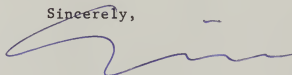
Mr. Harry X. Boosel  
P. O. Box 59293  
Northtown Station  
Chicago, IL 60659

Dear Harry:

I have located in my collection of numismatic cartoons one mentioning The Crime of '73. As you can see, it features William Jennings Bryan, lots of fractional currency, postage stamps, etc. If you feel like using it, we will have a better copy made.

I look forward to seeing you on November 1, 1986.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric P. Newman', with a stylized, flowing script.

Eric P. Newman

jah

Encl.



1873-1873

HARRY X BOOSEL-NLG

PROFESSIONAL NUMISMATIST

P.O. BOX 5203 - NORTH TOWN STATION  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60659

10-30

DEAR ERIC -

ENCLOSED IS A REVISED COPY OF  
MY PROPOSED OFFERING FOR COAC -

I DO VALUE YOUR OPINION - AND THAT  
IS WHY I SENT YOU THE FIRST DRAFT

AM PLANNING TO GET TO N.Y. (NEWARK)  
ON FRIDAY, AND LEAVE SUNDAY, RIGHT  
AFTER THE CONFERENCE -

WE HAVE TWO UNLISTED NUMBERS HERE:  
312-728-7729 (PREFERRED) AND 312-728-9616  
THAT OUR SON, WAYNE, PRIMARILY USES.

WE EXPECT TO BE IN ST. LOUIS NOV 14-16  
FOR A CENTRAL STATES BOARD MEETING - AND  
THEN DEC 14<sup>TH</sup> TO OUR CONDO IN FLORIDA -  
(UNLISTED - 305-947-1873) AND THEN TO ST. LOUIS  
WHEN NANCY GIVES BIRTH IN JANUARY -

I PRESUME YOU + EVELYN WILL STAY  
LONGER IN N.Y. TO VISIT WITH YOUR DAUGHTER.

REGARDS, FROM TILLIE, TOO



ANA 4343  
LM 77

The Crime of 1873 and its Effect on 1873 U.S. Silver Coinage

By

Harry X Boosel

My subject is the Silver Coinage of 1873, and the effect of the so-called Crime of 1873. That is my favorite topic. My learned colleagues have been discussing America's silver coinage and I thank you for the privilege of being a part of it.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

Perhaps you have seen my exhibit of 1873 no arrows Closed 3 half-dollars? It reminds me of an incident that happened a number of years ago. I met a friend of mine who appeared to be disconsolate. I asked him what was wrong. He told me: "My psychiatrist thinks I'm crazy because I like potato pancakes." So I told him that everybody likes potato pancakes, and I do, too. He immediately answered: "You do? Well, why don't you come over to my house, I have a closet full!" However, I can assure you that I do not have a closet full of 1873 halves..

Two happenings occurred in 1873 which contributed to the production during that year, of the largest number of varieties of U.S. silver coins, of any year in U.S. Mint history, without regard to die breaks, recutting of dies, errors, etc. We are dealing primarily with the coinage of the Philadelphia Mint, since there were no varieties in 1873 silver coins from the branch mints of Carson City and San Francisco other than the location and size of the mint marks.

The first event of importance was a letter dated January 18th, 1873, from A. Loudon Snowden, Chief Coiner of the Philadelphia Mint, to the Honorable James Pollock, Director of the Mint,<sup>(1)</sup> the body of which is as follows:

I desire in a formal manner to direct your attention to the "figures" used in dating the dies for the present year.

They are so heavy, and the space between each, so small, that upon the smaller gold and silver, and upon the base coins, it is impossible to distinguish with the naked eye, whether the last figure is an eight or a three.

In our ordinary coinage, many of the pieces are not fully brought up, and upon such it is impossible to distinguish what is the last figure of this year's date.

I do not think it creditable to the institution that the coinage of the year should be issued bearing this defect in the date.

I would recommend that an entire new set of figures, avoiding the defects of those now in use, be prepared at the earliest possible day."

This, of course, resulted in the well known "Open 3's and Closed 3's" of that year. No one had publicized this change prior to my researching the Coinage of 1873 beginning in 1950. Beistle<sup>(2)</sup> had mentioned an 1873 half-dollar with a "3" more open than the others without arrows.

Most research on coins is accomplished by studying the actual coins themselves. Based on the Snowden letter, and Beistle, I undertook to find the changes, if any, in the numeral "3", on all 1873 coins.

The other event effecting the silver coinage of 1873, was the Coinage Act of 1873, approved by President Grant on February 12th 1873,<sup>(3)</sup> to take effect on April 1, 1873. Whether or not we attribute anything significant to the April 1st date is speculative.

That legislation changed the weight of the U.S. dimes, quarters, and half-dollars to metric standards, increasing their weights an infinitesimal amount. The dimes were increased by .01 grams, the quarters by .03 grams, and the half-dollars by .06 grams. However, since the Act specifically designated the coins to be minted and their respective weights, it was illegal to issue any silver coins after that date, which did not conform to the Act, whether minted prior to April 1, 1873 or not. The standard silver dollar was not authorized or mentioned in the Act.

The following silver coins were minted in 1873 at the Philadelphia Mint prior to April 1: the 3¢ piece, the half-dime, the dime, quarter and half-dollar without arrows, and the standard silver dollar, none of which could be issued after April 1, 1873, because they did not conform to the Act.

A precedent had been set in 1853 for a weight change in silver coins, so the mint followed that in 1873 by placing reversed arrows at the sides of the date in the dimes, quarters and half-dollars to show the increase in weight. But the 3¢ piece, half-dime and standard silver dollar were not authorized or mentioned in the Act and thus were discontinued. The Trade Dollar was authorized in the Act and coinage of Trade Dollars commenced on July 11th, 1873, after substantial design problems.

There are ten (10) different weight silver coins which were issued in 1873. They are: the 3¢ silver, the half-dime, two dimes, two quarters, two half-dollars, the standard silver dollar, and the Trade Dollar, all from the Philadelphia Mint. We also have the Open and Closed 3's in the dimes, quarters and half-dollars, <sup>without arrows,</sup> and the large, and small arrows in the half-dollars, as well as what can be called the 4-striper half-dollar, in a small arrows variety, caused by a bounced die. In major varieties, there are therefore sixteen (16) different business strike silver coins made at the Philadelphia Mint, as well as ten proofs, making 26 different silver coins dated 1873!

Including the silver coins from the Branch Mints, we have an additional seven from the San Francisco Mint, and an additional eight from the Carson City Mint, making forty one different silver coins minted in 1873. The San Francisco Mint coins are the half-dime, the half-dollar without arrows and the standard silver dollar, <sup>(4)</sup> and the dime, quarter and half-dollar with arrows, as well as the Trade Dollar. From Carson City there are the dime, quarter <sup>(5)</sup> and half-dollar without arrows, the standard silver dollar, and the dime, quarter and half-dollar with arrows and the Trade Dollar.

If we also include the easily discernable high and low date varieties of the Philadelphia dime with arrows, then there are forty-two (42) major varieties in the aggregate, all minted in 1873! \*\*

Before we get into the Crime of 1873, are there any questions on the silver coinage of 1873?

- - - - -

The Coinage Act of 1873, itself, is often referred to as the "Crime of 1873." Why was it called a "Crime", and is that justified?

That Act had a long and devious history, going back as far as 1867. In that year, an International Monetary Conference was held in Paris, and our representative was Samuel B. Ruggles, a member of the Chamber of Commerce of New York. Senator Sherman of Ohio, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, conveyed a message to Ruggles to press for a single coinage standard: GOLD!

In June 1868, Senator Sherman made a report to the United States Senate in favor of "a single coinage standard, exclusively of gold".

\*\* Oops! Let's see if anyone catches this. I counted the 3¢ silver as both a business strike and a proof. They were made in proof only!

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BE PUBLISHED

In the same year, Mr. Sherman introduced a bill in the Senate (6) having the same object: a single standard-gold. This bill was accompanied by letters of approbation from Secretary of the Treasury Boutwell, Deputy Comptroller Knox, and various reports and recommendations from subordinate officials of the Treasury Department, including the Mint. But there was nothing in any of the reports that indicated the slightest comprehension of the economic effect of discontinuing coinage of the silver dollar or of demonetizing silver.

Senator Sherman introduced Senate bills in the two succeeding Congresses to effect his object of making gold the sole standard of the United States. His bill of April 28th 1870, included " revising the laws relating to the mints, assay offices and coinage of the United States," which, of course, was referred to the Senate Finance Committee, of which Sherman was Chairman. On the 19th of December 1870, Mr. Sherman reported the bill back to the Senate with minor amendments, among which was a charge for coinage for silver brought into the mints.

The bill was voted on in the Committee January 9th 1871, and carried, and the following day the Senate approved the bill, but struck out the provision for a charge for coinage. It went to the House of Representatives the same day.

The Bill was bandied back and forth in the House for over one year, and then on May 27th, 1872, Mr. Hooper of Massachusetts, offered a substitute bill, which, after much argument, was finally voted and approved, WITHOUT EVEN HAVING BEEN READ! (7)

The next day it went back to the Senate, and again was referred to the Senate Finance Committee and Sherman finally called the bill up before the Senate on January 17th, 1873. The Senate passed it and, since it had a few amendments it went into Conference and was approved by both Houses of February 12th, 1873. President Grant, depending on the Congress, approved it the same day to take effect on April 1st, 1873. There are 67 sections to the Coinage Act of 1873. He could not possibly have read and understood all of it the same day.

Going back to the House of Representatives, the same Mr. Hooper on April 19, 1872, in a debate in support of the bill,

let drop a remark in the House of Representatives, which helps to explain the origin of the carefully laid plot to change the money standard of the United States. He made this admission: " Mr. Ernst

Seyd, of London, a distinguished writer, who has given great attention to the mints and coinage, after examining the first draft of this bill, has furnished many valuable suggestions, which have been incorporated in this bill. It is not known what parts of the bill Mr. Seyd furnished. It is improbable that he came from England to make those suggestions about the basis for our coinage, the practical running of our mints, or about devices on our coins.

There is an undated pamphlet printed about 1895 by the American Bimettalic Union,<sup>(8)</sup> which had offices in the Sun Building, Washington, D.C., and 134 Monroe Street, Chicago. The pamphlet, entitled: The Crime of 1873, was reprinted, revised, and enlarged from "Silver in the Fifty-First Congress." Near the end of the pamphlet, it contains a copy of an affidavit, dated May 9, 1892, sworn to before a Clerk of the Colorado Supreme Court, by a prominent Colorado citizen, Frederick A. Luckenbach, who stated that Mr. Ernst Seyd of London, said to him in February 1874: "If you will pledge me your honor as a gentleman not to divulge what I am about to tell you while I live .." The pledge was given - "I went to America in the winter of 1872-73, authorized to secure, if I could, passage of a bill demonetizing silver. It was in the interests of those I represented- the Governors of the Bank of England- to have it done. I took with me 100,000 pounds sterling, with instructions if that was not sufficient to accomplish the object, to draw another 100,000 pounds, or as much as was necessary. I saw the Committees of the House and the Senate, paid the money and stayed in America until I knew the measure was safe." At that time, 100,000 pounds sterling was equal to \$500,000.

The Honorable Thomas Fitch of Nevada, at a later Silver Convention in St. Louis said:

That the nation which consumes 50% and produces but 7% of the world's supply of silver, beguiled the nation which produces nearly 50%, and consumes 25% of the world's supply of silver, into a conspiracy to strike 35% of the value of silver. The nation which is the biggest importer of wheat in the world, inveigled the nation which is the greatest exporter of wheat in the world into a financial and commercial dead-fall where 35% was taken from the value of the wheat. The nation whose looms would be idle, and whose people would be hungry, and whose government would be upheaved upon a storm of riot without a supply of American cotton, deceived the nation which is the biggest producer of cotton,

into striking 35% of the value of the cotton. Why, Gentlemen, England is the bunco steerer of the world, and Uncle Sam is the gentleman from the rural districts." (amid great applause)

It is evident who was responsible for the Crime of 1873. The effects of the Coinage Act of 1873 were:

1. The Act destroyed free coinage. Prior to its enactment, anyone could bring foreign silver coin or bullion to the mints and have it coined into U. S. silver coins free of charge. The Act abolished this option, and depositors had to sell it to the mints or have it cast into ingots. The only exception was that it could be coined into Trade Dollars for the depositor. But Trade Dollars were being discounted by merchants and brokers, and no one really wanted them.

2. In abolishing the standard silver dollar, by omitting it from the Act, the gold dollar of 25 8/10 grains became the only monetary standard of the United States. In effect, silver was demonetized. The Act specified the weight of the subsidiary silver coins in "grams", and the weight of gold coins in "grains". Prior to the Act, all gold minted in the United States was stated in values equal to silver dollars, which had been the standard, and the same weight from the inception of the Mint to 1873. Gold coins had been changed in weight on two previous occasions. <sup>(9)</sup>

3. Silver coins changed from unlimited legal tender to only \$5., but unintentionally, and inadvertently, the Trade Dollar also became legal tender to \$5., but its legal tender was eliminated by the Act of July 22, 1876, <sup>(10)</sup> and it was finally demonetized on March 3, 1887, and people were given six months to redeem their Trade Dollars after that date, for silver dollars, but only unutilated Trade Dollars were accepted. <sup>(11)</sup> It is the only United States coin ever repudiated. For several decades into the 20th century, the Trade Dollar could be purchased for less than one dollar!

At the time the Act passed, specie payments for legal tender notes had not been resumed, and the public debt was still high from the Civil War obligations. Most U. S. Bonds were held in Europe and it was in European investors interest that the U. S. debt be paid in gold.

By demonetizing silver, half of the metal in which the bonds could be payable, was deprived of monetary use for that purpose, and the other half was almost doubled in value.

Congress debated for many years after 1873, trying to fix the



blame for the Crime of 1873, and trying to nullify the effect of the Act. The Congressional Record, periodicals, and newspapers were full of debates and accusations. Even most of the legislators were not aware of the enormous impact of the Act they had passed. Even President Grant, who signed the law, was not aware of its impact.<sup>(12)</sup>

The passage of the Coinage Act of 1873 really was a crime, the criminals have been identified, and the economic effect detailed.

It really was : THE CRIME OF 1873 !

Footnotes:

- (1) Letter in book:1873-1873 by Harry X Boosel , Hewitt Bros , Chicago 1960  
page 7
- (2) A Register of Half Dollar Die Varieties by M.L.Beistle, published 1929 by Beistle Co. page 175 No. 1873 4 A
- (3) For full text of the Coinage Act of 1873, see Report of the Director of the Mint - 1873 - pages 25 through 33.
- (4) The half-dollar without arrows and the standard silver dollar of San Francisco of 1873 were minted but none are known in any collection. For proof of minting, see Chapter X on pages 41 & 42 of Boosel's book on 1873-1873.
- (5) There is a unique dime of Carson City without arrows of 1873, and only two quarters without arrows from Carson City of 1873.
- (6) Senate bill 217, Fortieth Congress.
- (7) Forty-second Congress, second session (first regular session) H.R. 1427. Hooper's substitute was H.R. 2934.
- (8) Monograph No.28, entitled "THE CRIME OF 1873", issued by the American Bimetallic Union, 134 Monroe Street, Chicago,Ill., and Sun Building Washington, D.C. - Reprinted from Silver in the Fifty-First Congress.
- (9) First gold coin struck for the United States was the half eagle of 1795-weight 8.75 grams,.9167 fine. Changed in 1834 to 8.36 grams, .8992 fine. Changed again in 1839 to 8.359 grams,900 fine. see pages 185, 189, and 190, 1987 Redbook.
- (10) Act of July 22,1876. John M. Willem, Jr., book on The United States Trade Dollar, New York 1959. Page 113
- (11) Act of March 3,1887. Received by President Cleveland on Feb.19, 1887 but not signed by him. See Willem's book,p.143.
- (12) McPherson's Handbook of Politics for 1874, pages 134 & 135.

The Crime of 1873 and its Effect on 1873 U. S. Silver Coinage  
The Silver Coinage of 1873, and the Crime of 1873

By Nary X. Bossell

My subject is ~~of course~~ the Silver Coinage of 1873, and the effect of the so-called Crime of 1873. My learned colleagues have been discussing America's silver coinage ~~for two days now~~, and that leaves ~~me~~ <sup>that is</sup> ~~discuss~~ <sup>topic</sup> my favorite subject, and I thank you for the privilege of being a part of it. I hope I will not keep you too long.

Perhaps you have seen my exhibit of 1873 no arrows halves? It reminds me of an incident that happened a number of years ago. I met a friend of mine who appeared to be disconsolate. I asked him what was wrong. He told me: "My psychiatrist thinks I'm crazy because I like potato pancakes." So I told him that everybody likes potato pancakes and I do, too. He immediately answered, "You do? Well, why don't you come over to my house, I have a closet full!" However, I can assure you, that even though I like 1873, I do not have a closet full of 1873 halves!

Two happenings occurred in 1873 <sup>which</sup> ~~that~~ contributed to <sup>the production during</sup> ~~making~~ that year <sup>number of</sup> ~~produce~~ the largest varieties of silver coins of any year <sup>U.S.</sup> without regard to die breaks, recutting of dies, errors, etc. We <sup>are dealing</sup> ~~will deal~~ primarily with the Philadelphia Mint, since there <sup>one</sup> ~~are~~ no varieties in silver coins from the branch mints of Carson City and San Francisco <sup>other than</sup> ~~in 1873~~ <sup>except, perhaps</sup> the size and location of mint marks.

The first <sup>event of importance</sup> ~~happening~~ was a letter, from A. Loudon Snowden, Chief Coiner of the Philadelphia Mint, to the Honorable James Pollock, Director of the Mint, <sup>dated January 18th, 1873</sup> ~~dated January 18th, 1873~~ <sup>the only of which is as follows:</sup>

I desire in a formal manner to direct your attention to the "figures" used in dating the dies for the present year.

They are so heavy, and the space between each, so small, that upon the smaller gold and silver, and upon the base coins, it is impossible to distinguish with the naked eye, whether the last figure is an eight or a three.

In our ordinary coinage, many of the pieces are not fully brought up, and upon such it is impossible to distinguish what is the last figure of this year's date.

I do not think it creditable to the institution that the coinage of the year should be issued bearing this defect in the date.

this OK for the trial  
but not for the  
published version

Is this  
true? check  
1795, etc.

I would recommend that an entire new set of figures, avoiding the defects of those now in use, be prepared at the earliest possible day. "

This, of course, resulted in the ~~new series~~ <sup>well known</sup> "Open and Closed 3's" of ~~that year~~ <sup>that year</sup>. ~~I never could understand why~~ <sup>No one discovered or</sup> ~~published this~~ <sup>change came to my researching the coinage of 1873</sup> ~~in 1950~~ <sup>beginning</sup>. ~~The one exception is~~ <sup>Beistle</sup> ~~who~~ <sup>mentioned</sup> an 1873 half-dollar with a "3" more ~~than~~ <sup>than</sup> the others without arrows.

Most research on coins is accomplished by studying the actual coins themselves, ~~as~~ <sup>the</sup> based on ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> letter, ~~which I found in the~~ <sup>which I found in the</sup> ~~and Beistle, I~~ <sup>undertook</sup> ~~to find the changes, if any,~~ <sup>to find the changes, if any,</sup> ~~and, of course, I did~~ <sup>in the</sup> ~~numeral~~.

However we are dealing with the 1873 silver. The other ~~event~~ <sup>event</sup> was the Coinage Act of 1873, approved by President Grant on February 12th 1873, to take effect ~~on~~ <sup>on</sup> April 1, 1873. ~~Whether or not~~ <sup>Whether or not</sup> we attribute anything significant to the ~~April~~ <sup>first date is speculative,</sup> ~~that legislation~~ <sup>that legislation</sup> ~~changed the weight of the~~ <sup>changed the weight of the</sup> ~~dimes, quarters, and~~ <sup>dimes, quarters, and</sup> ~~half dollars~~ <sup>half dollars</sup> to metric standards, increasing their weights an infinitesimal amount. The dimes were increased by .01 grams, the quarters by .03 grams, and the ~~half dollars~~ <sup>half dollars</sup> by .06 grams. However, since the Act specifically designated the coins to be minted, and their ~~weights~~ <sup>respective</sup>, it was illegal to issue any silver coins ~~minted prior to April 1, 1873~~ <sup>minted prior to April 1, 1873</sup> ~~after that~~ <sup>after that</sup> date, which did not conform to the Act. ~~The~~ <sup>standard</sup> silver dollar ~~was not~~ <sup>was not</sup> ~~mentioned in the Act.~~ <sup>mentioned in the Act.</sup>

The following silver coins ~~minted~~ <sup>minted</sup> in 1873 at the Philadelphia mint prior to April 1: the 3¢ piece; half-dime; dime; quarter and half ~~without arrows~~ <sup>without arrows</sup>, and the standard silver dollar, none of which could be issued after April 1, 1873 because they did not conform to the Act.

A precedent had been set in 1853 for a weight change in silver coins, so the mint followed that in 1873 by placing arrows at the side ~~of the date~~ <sup>of the date</sup> in the dimes, quarters and ~~half dollars~~ <sup>half dollars</sup> to show the ~~increase in weight~~ <sup>increase in weight</sup>. But the 3¢ piece, half-dime and standard silver dollar were ~~not mentioned~~ <sup>authorized or</sup> in the Act and ~~thus~~ <sup>thus</sup> were discontinued. The Trade Dollar was ~~authorized~~ <sup>authorized</sup> in the Act, and coinage of Trade dollars commenced on July 11th, 1873, after ~~the~~ <sup>substantial</sup> design ~~problems~~.



~~Some~~ <sup>ed</sup> include "revising the laws relating to the mints, assay offices and coinage of the United States," ~~this~~ <sup>was</sup> on April 28th 1870. The ~~introduced~~ <sup>was</sup> bill was accompanied by letters of approbation from ~~the~~ Secretary of the Treasury Boutwell, Deputy Comptroller Knox and various reports and recommendations from subordinate officials of the Treasury Department, ~~including~~ <sup>including</sup> the Mint. But there was nothing in any of the reports that ~~showed~~ <sup>indicated</sup> the slightest comprehension of the economic effect of ~~accepting~~ <sup>discontinuing</sup> the silver dollar or of demonetizing silver.

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1871, the Senate Committee <sup>approved</sup> ~~passed~~ the bill and it <sup>the next day</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> passed by the Senate ~~on January 10th~~ <sup>to</sup> and ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> sent to the House <sup>for over one year</sup>. The bill was bandied back and forth in the House, and then on ~~May 27~~ <sup>May 27</sup>, 1872, Mr. Hooper of Massachusetts offered a substitute bill, which, after much argument, was finally voted and approved, WITHOUT HAVING EVEN BEEN READ!

~~Passed to the House~~ <sup>in support of the bill</sup> Hooper, in a debate in the House on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1872, let drop a remark which ~~help~~ <sup>carefully</sup> explain the origin of the ~~plot~~ <sup>carefully</sup> to change the money standard ~~of~~ the United States. He made this admission: "Mr. Ernest Seyd, of London, ~~remember the name Ernest Seyd~~ a distinguished writer, who has given great attention to the mints and coinage, after examining the first draft of the bill, has furnished many valuable suggestions, which have been incorporated in this bill." It ~~would be interesting to know just~~ <sup>as not known</sup> what parts of the bill Mr. Seyd furnished. It is ~~probable~~ <sup>probable</sup> that he came ~~from England~~ <sup>from England</sup> to make suggestions about the ~~practical running of our mints, or about~~ <sup>basis for our coinage</sup> devices on our coins.

~~This is an undated~~ <sup>entitled?</sup> ~~Some on a~~ pamphlet on the Crime of 1873, ~~from which much~~ <sup>about 1895</sup> of my material has been taken. It was printed ~~toward the end of the~~ <sup>in the</sup> last century, by the American Bimetallic Union which had ~~its~~ <sup>offices in the</sup> Sun Building, Washington, D.C., and 134 Monroe Street, ~~Chicago.~~ <sup>Chicago. The pamphlet</sup> was reprinted, revised and enlarged from "Silver in the Fifty-First Congress". ~~It contains~~ <sup>It contains</sup> an affidavit, dated ~~May~~ <sup>May</sup> 9, 1892, sworn to before a Clerk of the Colorado Supreme Court, by a prominent Colorado ~~citizen~~ <sup>citizen (who?)</sup>, who stated that Mr. Ernest Seyd of London, ~~said to~~ <sup>said to</sup> him in February 1874: "If you will pledge me your honor as a gentleman not to divulge what I am about to tell you while I live..." - ~~The pledge was given~~ <sup>The pledge was given</sup> and at the time of the ~~affidavit, Seyd was deceased. Seyd continued:~~ "I went to America in the winter of 1872-3, authorized to secure, if I could, passage of a bill demonetizing silver. It was in the interests of those I represented - the Governors of the Bank of England- to have it done. I took with



me 100,000 pounds sterling ~~which was equal to \$500,000 in our money~~ with instructions if that was not sufficient to accomplish the object, to draw another 100,000 pounds, or as much as was necessary. German Bankers were also interested in having it accomplished. I saw the Committees of the House and Senate, paid the money and stayed in America until I knew the measure was safe." ~~At that time £100,000 sterling was equal to \$500,000.~~

~~Let me quote~~ The Honorable <sup>on</sup> Thomas Fitch of Nevada at ~~the~~ Silver Convention in St. Louis: "That the nation which consumes 50% and produces but 7% of the world's supply of silver, beguiled the nation which produces nearly 50%, and consumes 25% of the world's supply of silver into a conspiracy to strike 35% of the value of silver. The nation which is the biggest importer of wheat in the world, inveigled the nation which is the greatest exporter of wheat in the world into a financial and commercial dead-fall where 35% was taken from the value of the wheat. The nation whose looms would be idle, and whose people would be hungry, and whose government would be upheaved upon a storm of riot without a supply of American cotton, deceived the nation which is the biggest producer of cotton into striking 35% of the value of the cotton. Why, Gentlemen, England is the bunco steerer of the world, and Uncle Sam is the gentleman from the rural districts" (Amid great applause) ○

~~So now we know~~ <sup>It is evident</sup> who was responsible for the Crime of 1873. ~~Let us now try to tell you of some of the effects. There are a few things that the Coinage Act of 1873 changed:~~ were!

1. The Act destroyed free coinage- prior to its enactment, anyone could bring foreign silver coin or bullion to the mints and have it coined into U.S. silver coins free of charge. The Act abolished this, <sup>option</sup> and depositors had to sell it to the mints or have it cast <sup>for that purpose</sup> into ingots. The only exception ~~this~~ <sup>for the depositor</sup> was that it could be coined into Trade Dollars. <sup>But Trade Dollars</sup> ~~But these~~ were being discounted by merchants and <sup>bankers</sup> ~~no one~~ wanted them.
2. In abolishing the standard silver dollar by omitting it from the Act, ~~the Act stated that~~ the gold dollar of 25 8/10 grains <sup>became</sup> ~~the only~~ <sup>the only</sup> monetary standard of the United States. In effect ~~the~~ <sup>was</sup> demonetized silver. <sup>It is interesting to note that</sup> ~~the Act~~ <sup>specified</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>weight of</sup> the silver coins in "grams" and the gold <sup>was</sup> ~~in~~ "grains". Prior to the Act, all gold minted in the United States was stated in values equal to silver dollars, which had been the standard, and the same weight from the inception of the Mint to 1873. Gold

on two previous occasions  
coins had been changed in weight ~~twice before~~

3. Silver coins changed from unlimited legal tender to only \$5.  
~~Unintentionally and~~ inadvertently, the Trade Dollar also became legal tender to \$5, ~~but~~  
~~although this was not intended~~ <sup>legal tender was later eliminated</sup>, and the  
~~Trade Dollar was~~ <sup>and finally</sup> demonetized. It is the only U.S. <sup>coin</sup>  
ever repudiated. <sup>For several decades in the 19th century the Trade Dollar</sup> could be purchased  
for less than <sup>one</sup> dollar!

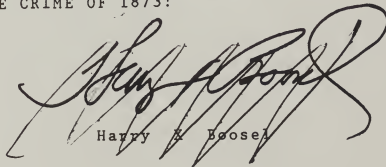
At the time the Act passed, specie payments had not been resumed <sup>and</sup>  
the public debt was <sup>still</sup> high <sup>from</sup> ~~the~~ Civil War  
~~and had not been paid~~. Most of the ~~U.S. bonds were~~ held  
in Europe, and it was in <sup>European countries</sup> interest that the ~~U.S. debt~~ be paid  
in gold! ~~We believe we have already fixed the blame for the Act.~~

~~Incorrect~~ By demonetizing silver, half the metal in which the ~~bonds~~  
~~had been~~ <sup>could be</sup> payable was deprived of monetary use, <sup>for that purpose</sup> and the other half  
was almost doubled in value.

Congress debated for many years after 1873, trying to fix the blame  
for the Crime of 1873, and trying to nullify the effects of the Act.

The Congressional Record, periodicals and newspapers were full of debates,  
and accusations. Even most of the Legislators were not aware of the  
~~enormous impact~~ <sup>enormous</sup> of the Act ~~and its effects~~ they had passed.

~~It would take far more than the time allowed to detail all the~~  
~~effects of the Coinage Act of 1873~~ <sup>the passage of the Coinage Act of 1873</sup>  
~~but I believe that we have established~~  
~~that~~ really was a Crime, ~~which~~ <sup>the Criminal</sup> have been identified and the effect  
~~of it~~ detailed. IT really was: THE CRIME OF 1873!

  
Harry F. Booser

economic

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

*6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105*

June 3, 1987

Mr. Harry X. Boosel  
P. O. Box 59293  
Northtown Station  
Chicago, IL 60659

Dear Harry:

The crime of 1873 as set out in Sound Currency shocked me when it said that the Ernest Seyd action relating to bribery was a myth. I am sure you cited this article, but you did not give much credence to its content. I enclose it in case you want to comment on it.

My kindewt regards,

Eric P. Newman

jah

Encl.





HARRY X BOOSEL  
P. O. BOX 59293  
NORTHTOWN STATION  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60659

*American Numismatic Association*

HARRY X BOOSEL

FOUNDER GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 59293, CHICAGO • ILLINOIS 60659

Dear Eric:

17 July 1987

Enjoyed our little get-together last week-

Meant to leave the enclosed reprint of an article I wrote that sort of ties into the Saudi article I left with you. Would you believe that I had originally sent that article to Neil Harris at A.N.A. for publication in the Numismatist. (About the Saudi Discs)

After keeping it over a year, he returned it to me with the sort of lame excuse that it repeated some parts of the original article and that a lot of it did not pertain to the title!

In checking my book records, I did not find that you had ever received copies of my book on 1873. Do you have one? I had some bound in hard cover, and whenever I wrote another article on 1873, I included a reprint with the books. Please let me know what you have- bound or unbound, and supplements.

Thought you might enjoy the article by Hale Boyle- don't know how old it is but it appeared in the old Chicago Daily News, now long since defunct.

Hope all is well, and Tillie joins me in wishing both you and Evelyn well.

As ever,

P.S. The July Numismatist surprised me. I was not aware that Ed Rochette was doing that article about me.

# Enough Clean-Desk Propaganda!

BY HAL BOYLE

**N**EW YORK—(P)—The great American dream today is to have two of everything.

You aren't a success unless you have twin beds in your bedroom, at least two baths in your house, and a two-car garage.

All I pine for is a simple two-desk office. One desk is to work on—the other desk is simply to let things pile up on.

I get this feeling particularly about this period of the year, for now is the time when across the land thousands of memo-pad Neros issue a stern edict:

"This office is getting to look like the city dump again. Everybody clean off his desk by Friday—or else."

THEY SEEM to have the idea—these rubberband Napoleons—that business efficiency is somehow speeded if everybody's desk has a cardine sameness. They enthrone neatness and confuse it with order.

Actually, a clean desk is no true indication of either efficiency or real mental order. It is only a sign of conformity on the part of the desk's occupant. He hasn't cleared his desk for action. He has merely hidden the rubble where the boss can't see it.



HAL BOYLE

Look around you in your own office. Aren't the men with the neatest desks also the most neurotic employees in the place? Don't they also include most of the hypochondriacs, the chronic false-ulcer victims and the fear-ridden decision dodgers?

It is also a business truism that most embezzlers—and potential embezzlers—are fastidious about their desks. In their case the neat desk is the sign of a guilty mind.

ON THE OTHER HAND, show me a man who keeps a cluttered desk and I'll show you one of nature's noblemen—one who takes joy in his work, is gentle with his children, raises not his voice against his wife, and never, never, never kicks his dog around.

The debris on his desk stops there and doesn't pile up in his head. That littered desk is the moat that protects the inner castle of his mind; it is his Siegfried line against the confusing waves from the outer world that threaten his serenity.

His desk may look like a public library after an earthquake, but it is well catalogued to him. If he needs a bit of information from it, he can close his eyes, reach out a questioning hand—and triumphantly pluck forth the desired data.

The man with the tidy mind cannot match this feat. In his passion to win an office gold star for neatness he has ignorantly tossed away the very information he will need most later—or else filed it away in some drawer where it won't be found again until doomsday.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

July 23, 1987

Mr. Harry X. Boosel  
P. O. Box 59293  
Northtown Station  
Chicago, IL 60659

Dear Harry:

Thank you for your letter of July 17, 1987. I have a small blue cloth bound book which contains the articles you wrote for the Scrapbook. It has two sheets loose in it. One is about the visit of the Shah to London. If there is something else which our library should have, please let me know.

I carefully read the article about you in the July Numismatist and was pleased that you received this nice publicity. It was a pleasure to see you in St. Louis and I hope you come often.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

jah



Mercantile  
Money Museum

Mercantile Tower  
Seventh & Washington  
St. Louis, Mo. 63101  
314-421-1819

4/18/89

Harry Boosel  
P. O. Box 59293  
Northtown Station  
Chicago IL 60659

Dear Harry:

Believe it or not I have never seen the publicity about my being the first seey-treas of Central States. I was in a trance because I got engaged to be married and didn't go to Chicago for the first meeting. I went to the next one in Burlington, Iowa with my wife where we had a catfish banquet, I recall. Thus I am not a charter member. I will not be at the Kansas City blast.

I am so pleased your grandchild is giving you both so much pleasure and that Nancy and Charlie will have a new fancy home.

I am going to San Francisco on April 27 to a coin scale convention (actually antique scales) so you see there is a meeting for everyone of us nuts.

Thanks for writing and best to Tullie.

Cordially

1873-1873

HARRY X BOOSEL - NLG

PROFESSIONAL NUMISMATIST

P.O. BOX 59293 — NORTH TOWN STATION

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60659

5-1-89

DEAR ERIC -

DON'T KNOW IF YOU GET NUMISMATIC NEWS -  
ENCLOSED SHOWS HOW THEY TREATED THE ANONYMOUS  
LETTER -

DO YOU GET STACK'S AND COIN GALLERIES  
CATALOGS? IN C.G. SALES OF MAY 24  
THERE HAVE SOME EARLY AMERICAN BRICKAGES,  
1766 PITF TOKEN <sup>11-</sup>~~11-~~ 1787 CONNECTICUTS  
2 1787 FUGIOS (NEWMAN 22-M + 12 X).

HOPE YOU <sup>(\*)</sup>HAD A SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION  
OUT WEST.

(\*) PLURAL!

KINDEST REGARDS FROM BOTH OF US



ANA 4343

LM 77

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

August 16, 1989

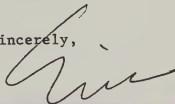
Mr. Harry X. Boosel  
2635 West Balmoral Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60625

Dear Harry:

I am sending you by UPS from our library a box of legal proceedings in the case of Fernandez vs. Hall, et al in the U.S. District Court of the Central District of California. You requested this data.

We are glad to furnish these to you for study. Please return them promptly after they have served your purpose.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

1111

1-15-93

DEAR ERIC:

FORGIVE THE ENVELOPE - I RAN OUT AND WON'T GET TO THE STORE FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS -

I SUPPOSE YOU SAW THE ENCLOSED ARTICLE ON ANS LARGE COINS. AT LEAST YOU KNEW ABOUT IT!

DID YOU EVER SEE THE ITEM FROM THE MAY 1939 NUMISMATIC SCRAP BOOK?

YOUR LETTER HAS NOT ARRIVED YET, BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT THE PIONEER PROOFING BAR OFFERED BY STARK'S WAS IN THE KAUFMAN SALE, BUT WAS NOT IN THE KAUFMAN COLLECTION. IT WAS ANOTHER CONSIGNOR.

THIS WEEK-END, I WILL TRY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ED MILLS AND GET THE NAME OF THE CONSIGNOR. HE WAS QUESTIONED WHEN SOME OF NATHAN KAUFMAN'S ITEMS CONTERBATED THE SALE.

I STILL HAVE A COPY OF THE KAUFMAN SALE. IF YOU DO NOT, I CAN REPRO THE ITEM FOR YOU WHEN I GET BACK TO CHICAGO.

HOPE YOU AND EVELYN ARE BOTH WELL AND STAY WELL.

REGARDS

Harry

P.S. DID YOU SEE THE WRITE-UP ON 1873 IN THE DEC. 28 ISSUE OF COIN WORLD? PAGES 10 & 11

Booseh

Eric P. Newman

6450 Cecil Ave.  
St. Louis, Mo. 63105

August 23, 1994

Mrs. Harry X. Boosel  
P.O. Box 59293  
Northtown Station  
Chicago, IL 60659

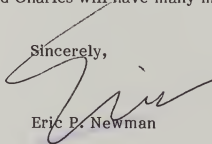
Dear Tillie:

We were deeply saddened when Josephine told us about Harry's death. I was so refreshed by his storytelling and enthusiasm at the OTACS meeting in Detroit in July, and was proud to see him honored for 60 years as an ANA member.

Our relationship in numismatics was so pleasant and stimulating over a long span of years. We shared experiences and research. I will miss him.

Evelyn and I know that you, Nancy and Charles will have many memories of his vigorous and interesting life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Eric', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv



1st February 1936

Hans P. Schulz  
545 Fifth Avenue  
New York 17, New York

Dear Hans:

Sorry to have to return these three discs, but they do not appear to be genuine.

I have a large disc that I bought about five years ago and these do not compare favorably with it.

Best regards,

Harry

REGISTERED NO. 60

Due \$ 60 Spec. del'y fee \$

Fee \$ 25 Rec. receipt fee \$

Surcharge \$ 30 Inst. del'y fee \$

Postage \$ 30 Airmail

Postmaster, By

From George Bateman  
2635  
To Hans M. P. Schulz  
545 Fifth Ave  
New York N.Y.

POD Form 3500  
May 1935

# HANS M. SCHULMAN

SON OF M. SCHULMAN OF THE NETHERLANDS • ESTABLISHED 1880



545 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Murray Hill 7-3145 - 3146

Cable Address: Numatics, N. Y.

COINS & MEDALS  
ANTIQUITIES  
NUMISMATIC BOOKS  
PUBLIC AUCTION SALES


MONNAIES & MEDAILLES  
ANTIQUITES  
LIVRES NUMISMATIQUES  
VENTES PUBLIQUES

MONEDAS & MEDALLAS  
ANTIQUIDADES  
LIBROS NUMISMATICOS  
SUBASTAS PUBLICAS

*Feb 3.*

*Dear Harry:*

*Where did you find  
these discs to be counterfeits.  
I like to know more  
about this. These came  
from Saudi Arabia  
consigned by an Egyptian.  
Can you either send me  
just to compare or if  
a picture helps out,  
send me that -  
It is important to me and  
to my reputation.*

*Very  
Hans*  




# HANS M. F. SCHULMAN

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MONEDAS & MEDALLAS  
ANTIGUEDADES  
LIBROS NUMISMATICOS  
SUBASTAS PUBLICAS

*Feb. 11*

*Dear Sir,*  
*I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am glad to hear that you are interested in the coins of the Netherlands. I have a large collection of these coins and would be glad to show them to you if you wish. I have also a large collection of coins of the other countries of the Netherlands and would be glad to show them to you if you wish. I have also a large collection of coins of the other countries of the Netherlands and would be glad to show them to you if you wish.*





# HANS M. F. SCHULMAN

SON OF M. SCHULMAN OF THE NETHERLANDS • ESTABLISHED 1880



545 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

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VENTES PUBLIQUES

MONEDAS & MEDALLAS  
ANTIQUIDADES  
LIBROS NUMISMATICOS  
SUBASTAS PUBLICAS

April 13, 1959

Mr. Harry Boesel  
2635 Balmoral Ave  
Chicago 25, Illinois

Dear Harry,

I enclose a copy of an insurance claim on your coin which we lost. It might interest you to know that two of the pieces in our April sale brought \$170 each, one of them bought by a Washington government official and paid for it.

Yours sincerely,

*Hans M. F. Schulman*  
Hans M. F. Schulman

BUT THESE WERE COIN NOT  
NOT GENUINE

Thomas R Ackerman  
903 W Henry St  
Mount Prospect, Ill.

11th June 1959

Dear Tom:

I had anticipated payment on my coin long ago but have not heard from my man in over a month, hence this letter. I'm sure he has not flown the coop because he is planning an auction in the fall for a large numismatic organization. Anyway I will be in New York next week and will certainly call on him. (at his office)-Meanwhile:

I sent him my coin for examination by registered mail-deliver addressee only-return receipt requested- He had some counterfeits and wanted to know the difference. Out of the goodness of my heart I sent him mine for comparison. The whole shmeer is attached and if you want to read it for crying, help yourself.

I've attempted to number what is attached.

1. My letter of 2/6/59 with postal receipt and return receipt attached for original transmission of the coin
2. His letter of 2/11 acknowledging receipt and saying it was sent back.
3. Note from his Secretary after I wrote and asked about my coin. 2/27 with envelope attached with proof of mailing
4. 3/4/59 Note from his secretary asking me its value so he can file a claim
5. Letter from his sec. 3/8/59 explaining the clerical error in mailing this as a result of a phone call from me to him. He sent me a replacement but it too was a counterfeit and I returned it.
6. Letter from him with insurance claim attached. 4/13/59
7. My letter of 28 April with postal receipt attached returning his mentioned in 5. above and telling him I could not find or buy a genuine replacement of my coin at the coin convention.
8. His letter of 4 May- last I heard from him up to date- with receipt for 7 above
9. Last letter I wrote him and haven't heard from him since

Will I get all my letters back?

I'm sending this by registered cause I don't want to lose it. I registered my coin for only \$10 because that's what I'm paying insurance for! Fair market value may be more than \$250 now since I have been trying to buy a replacement for it for 3 months without success.

Sincerely

Harry X Bopsal

PUSH

114 INS. CO.

THOMAS R. ACKERMAN  
Insurance for Every Need

JUN 23 1959

28-S-LaSalle-St.  
Chicago 3, Ill.  
PRanklin 2-0460

ESTATE PLANNING  
MORTGAGES

603 W. Henry St.  
Mount Prospect, Ill.  
CLearbrook 3-7943

CL 5-7-1-1

June 20, 1959

Mrs. Elizabeth Troy  
Inland Marine Claim Dept.  
American Associated Ins. Cos.  
175 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, 4, Ill

Dear Mrs. Troy:

Re: M- 4420908 ✓  
Boosel, Harry X  
Coin lost.

Mr. Boosel reports the loss of a gold Saudi Arabia coin, one of the items included in the "miscellaneous coins" under the above captioned policy.

It seems he mailed it to a Mr. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
Hans M.F. Schulman of 545 Fifth Ave., New York 17, N.Y. reported to be a reputable dealer in coins in order for Schulman to compare it with some presented to him for purchase by another source. Schulman suspicioned the ones being presented to him from abroad were counterfeit and requested Harry to loan him one certified to be genuine.

Schulman claims he mailed Harry's coin back to him by registered mail on 2-11-59 but the coin never arrived.

Schulman made claim to Aetna Insurance Co., 100 William Street, New York, N.Y. thru his agent a Mr. Theodore Bilick but to date the claim has not been honored.

The missing coin is reported to be worth \$250.00.

Please do the necessary to dispose of this matter.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS R. ACKERMAN

R/S The Saudi Arabia agent apparently is also named Ackerman. No relative of mine.

P5. Mr Boosel is with Naval Intelligence  
Security Division. He can be reached at  
RA 8-9616 at days or CEC-4536

Long  
Good Subrogation  
Follow up  
Jat  
6/25  
Thomas R. Ackerman



Dear Hans:

During our last phone conversation you asked me to give you a resume of what happened on the Saudi Arabian Gold Disc that I sent you last year. As far as I can make out, here is what happened:

On Feb 8 1959 I sent you my Saudi Gold Disc, large size, registered mail return receipt requested delivery to addressee only.

On Feb 11, 1959 you sent me a letter saying it had been received noted and was being returned.

On Feb 24 1959 I wrote telling you that I did not get the coin.

On Feb 27, 1959 your secretary sent me proof of mailing by copy of insurance slip #8.573931.

On Mar 4, 1959 your secretary wrote me a note asking what value I attached to the coin and to file a claim with him.

Mar 9, letter from you explaining the clerical error in mailing (as a result of a phone call from me to you)

April 13, 1959. Letter from you with copy of claim attached from Theodore Blick with Aetna Insurance Co

I had placed a nominal value of \$250 on the coin and although I have tried every dealer I know and at conventions since then, I HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO REPLACE THE COIN. Naturally I would rather have had the coin than the money.

I was in New York 16-17-18 June 1959 and on 17 June, while at the Hotel New Yorker, I received a check from you in the amount of \$250. As far as I am concerned, my case with you is closed.

Mrs Baesel sends her regards to you, and we will see you in Detroit, we hope, for the Central States Convention.

Telephone call 5/23/75

Lost by Schulman when returned  
NY auction Franklin was present. Frankl  
said he was collecting these. Had 15 or 16 and  
all were counterfeit - Vernon  
checked with Chase Natl Bk collection

Boosel N number  
312-728-7729  
Charles Judge

See 1 A P N  
Bulletin on Cts



1873-1873

HARRY X BOOSEL  
P.O. BOX 5932 — NORTHTOWN STATION  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60659

5-15-75

DEAR ERIC:

NICE TO VISIT WITH YOU AGAIN AND  
I CERTAINLY ENJOYED BUTTREY'S DISCOURSE ON  
THE SO-CALLED BARS —

I PRESUME THE LETTER FROM THE ATTORNEYS  
WAS FROM FORD'S ATTORNEYS —

WHY IS FORD ALWAYS MIXED UP WITH GOLD  
BARS? IT DISTRESSED ME TO SEE SO MANY AT A  
RECENT STACK AUCTION — HARVEY WAS UNDERSTANDABLY  
DISTRESSED AT OUR MEETING!

WHEN I SEE YOU NEXT - REMIND ME TO TELL YOU  
OF AN EXPERIENCE OF MINE WITH FRANKLIN — FORD'S  
METALLURGICAL CHEMIST — IN NEW YORK ABOUT 1958 —  
CONCERNING THOSE SAUDI-ARABIAN GOLD DISCS MADE  
BY THE U.S. MINT CIRCA 1945-46.

I SAID SOME OF IT IN THE ARTICLE I WROTE  
IN THE JULY 1959 NUMISMATIST — IF YOU HAVE IT  
READILY AVAILABLE — READ IT.

WILL SEE YOU IN L.A., IF NOT SOONER.

ALL THE BEST

Harry

Not mailed  
5/22/75



ANA 4343  
LM 77

## Those Saudi Arabian Gold Discs

Additional details, not published in the article in the July 1959 Numismatist by Harry X Boosel.

Shortly after King Farouk was deposed, Mr. F K Saab, at a meeting of the Chicago Coin Club, displayed both a large and a small Saudi disc, in gold.

I know Saab very well, and being very intrigued by the discs, asked him if I could buy a set from him. He said that he had several sets but they were in a vault in Egypt and that it would be extremely difficult to get any out.

However, I persisted, and about 1954 I was able to obtain a set from Saab for about \$100. I continued to research the coins to find out why the United States would make gold coins for a foreign country with the U S eagle on them.

The story was finally published in the July 1959 Numismatist.

During the interim I was able to obtain another small disc from Saudi Arabia, and another one from an auction by Steinberg in Florida. This left me with three small and one large disc.

I conceived the idea of getting two more large ones, or at least one more large one to make up sets, and eventually sell them. About 1958, the larger ones began appearing in Schulman's auctions. But they consistently were selling at about \$175, which I was not willing to pay.

So I kept bidding at \$150 and finally in late 1958 I was successful- not only did I get one, but I got three at one time at \$150 each. I really didn't want three, and so I examined the three very closely and finally came to the decision that all three were counterfeit! The details of the difference appears in the article.

I returned all three to Hans, whom I know very well, with a short note merely indicating that I thought the three were not genuine. I did not wish to enter into lengthy details or arguments, merely said I thought them not genuine.

Back came a letter from Hans- asking me details, since he wished to know all about them- he said it was for his benefit in business.

I like Hans, and felt he was sincere, so I sat down and started to write him the details, but then I figured that if he didn't have an original, he would know what I was talking about. So I decided to send him my original, ~~with~~ the note. I sent it registered mail, return receipt, deliver to addressee only- and surely figured that he would send it back the same way.

About a week later I received a note from Hans that he saw the difference and was sending my coin back. I waited about a month and still no coin. I wrote him and asked for the coin- It turned out that he gave it to a clerk to send it back and he sent it insured and it was lost. I was paid for it but I now had no large discs and three small ones.

At every show and every dealer I saw after that, I tried to get another large disc, but those I saw were all counterfeit.

Finally in 1959, while in New York attending a business seminar, I attended a coin auction at a hotel. It was either in June 1959 or in November 1959. At the auction, John Ford was present, and somehow I was talking about the discs and indicated that I was looking for a large one. Ford introduced me to his friend Franklin, and said that Franklin had some. In my talk with Franklin, he said that he had been "buying" these discs and had about a dozen, and would I care to look at them. I said I would be happy to do so. He said that he would bring them to the auction in the hotel the next day.

He did so- took out a coin box with about 15 of them, in a variety of envelopes. I looked them over one at a time, carefully, and all were the same counterfeits!

I later talked to Louis Werner, and mentioned what had taken place. He said to me- don't you know who that is? That's Franklin- he makes them for Ford!

With so many in one place, I began to doubt what I knew, and finally I remembered Vern Brown was the Curator at Chase, and I had talked to him about the discs at one time or another. So I called him and asked if the Chase still had discs and when had they obtained them. He told me yes, they still had them, and had obtained them shortly after they were made. I asked him if I could examine them, and he said sure- So next noon I went there, he took them out of the case, and there we were- originals as I had known. My faith in myself had been restored.

Since I had written the article, some dealers had looked upon me as an expert in the Saudi discs and in 1964, at the Cleveland convention, as I entered the bourse room, Sol Kaplan grabbed me and asked me to authenticate some large discs he had just bought.

I took them to the room and they were genuine- Sid Smith also grabbed me and asked me to look at some he had- they too, were genuine. I was able to purchase one from each to make sets, which I sold a few years ago.

At the '64 convention, apparently someone had brought in about a dozen and had sold some to Sol and some to Sid. Even today, I still get an occasional disc from Sid for authentication.

At the Round Table here in Chicago, I told Hoskins that I would be happy to authenticate any he might be having trouble with, and referred him to my July 1959 article.

*Hayt Bowel*



LARGE SIZE ONLY

ORIGINALS  
HAPHAZARD FINELY ENGRAVED  
LINES IN FIELD BEFORE LETTERS  
WERE PUNCHED IN. CANNOT BE  
DUPLICATED BY CASTING.

1873-1873

HARRY X BOOSEL

P.O. BOX 5932 — NORTH TOWN STATION  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60659

27th May 1975

Dear Eric:

I wrote up the Saudi story as best I could remember- 2½ pages- enclosed, because I couldn't find the correspondence with Hans Schulman. Then after I wrote it, I looked in another file (claims) and found the correspondence with Schulman and my own insurance company.

So I'm also enclosing the correspondence with Schulman, but this I want back- the 2½ page story is yours. Note Hans says that he had someone from Saudi Arabia in his office looking at the coins!

I now believe that the auction I mentioned in my story, during which I met Franklin, was in November 1959.

Regarding our daughter, Nanci, and Charlie Judge- Nanci was 21 last January. She has been attending Florida Institute of Technology in Jensen Beach Florida since last summer. She met Charlie last Sept but didn't tell us anything until November. By that time she had become quite intimate with him. He was not working but had attended F I T the previous year and was looking for a job at the time. He took up so much of Nanci's time (we found out later) that she dropped her major (math) and ended up that quarter with only 6 hours credit.

Then in January, Charlie went to diving school in Ft Pierce, 22 20 miles north of Jensen Beach but he was still living in Stuart, nearby, and apparently they managed to spend week-ends together.

Tillie (Mrs Boosel) and I went to Jensen Beach in March to try to get this matter resolved- we talked to Charlie (alone) and he emphatically stated that they were just good friends and he had no intention of marrying and that Nanci also understood it. We took him at his word. He said that he was leaving soon for a job in New Orleans and that he would break it off then.

Well, on Mother's Day we got our bombshell. Nanci told us she was going to New Orleans for 10 days to be with Charlie, and that she was going to spend the summer with him in N.O. and then they would later be married. You can imagine our reaction. We wonder how much of this the Judges know.

I plan to fly to New Orleans Monday (June 2) and will talk to the two of them to try to dissuade them from what they plan. We do want Nanci to at least finish her associate degree, which may take until June 1976. Then I'll fly with Nanci to Miami, rent a car and drive her to Jensen Beach, and try to talk some sense into her. Failing all this, Tillie and I may try to go to St. Louis to talk to the Judges, and let them know what is going on and how we feel about it all.

If you should see them soon, perhaps you could mention some of this to them. We wonder how much they know.

Kindest regards,

*Harry*



ANA 4343  
LM 77

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

*6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri*

July 7, 1975

Mr. Harry X. Boesel  
P. O. Box 59132 Northtown Station  
Chicago, IL 60659

Dear Harry:

I return with thanks the file you were nice enough to send me on the complications with Schulman over the Saudi Arabia discs.

Your experience continues to amaze me, particularly because of the personnel involved.

The Egyptian referred to might have been Fouad K. Saab of St. Louis. The other curiosity is that Mr. Ackerman was supposed to be a friend of Schulman from Saudi Arabia and is the same name as your insurance agent. Are they the same people?

My kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

*The Nichols*  
APARTMENT HOTEL  
*On The Ocean*  
COLLINS AVENUE AT 96TH STREET  
MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA 33154

7/31/75

Dear Eric:

Guess you didn't see the note on one of the last pages from my insurance man- he mentioned that the other Ackerman was no relative.

Gave a talk at one of the Miami clubs last week on the Saudi Gold- they were quite interested since many had some- they brought it to the next meeting at another location the next day, and would you believe that all the big ones were counterfeit!

Also gave a talk on my favorite subject ( 1873- what else?) at the Gold Coast club in Hollywood. All the local clubs seem to have good junior programs going/.

Will be here until about August 9th and then will head west to L A arriving about Aug 17 (my birthday).

Have been trying (not too hard) to be on the ANA Educational Program- Is Rochette the one to pin down?

Noted an item in the Coin World- Canada is advocating a  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ¢ piece!

See you in L A- I already have my tickets for the NLG bash-

Oh yes, dashed off a little something for the Numismatist- title " Regular Dies - Trial Piece " In my opinion- no way- Trial pieces in copper and aluminum were made from Proof Dies, not regular dies! Proved it by a small network of minute die-cracks on the 1873 \$1 gold proof and the copper and aluminum trial pieces of the same.

Regards,



HARRY X BOOSEL  
PO Box 59132 Northtown Sta  
Chicago, Illinois 60659

4/30/01

FAX

Ken:

I received either from you or Harry X Boosel many years ago a thick file on Saudi Ammoco discs, composed of his and your letters, etc.

I had occasion to look at it and enclose a 3 page commentary by Boosel written about 1964. It contains data which I did not remember and which are enlightening. Do you remember it?

Eric



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Harry X. Boosal

December 23, 1992

Dear Harry,

In the January 13, 1993 Bowers & Merena Sale there is Lot # 1592 which is supposed to be a proofing ingot. It states it came from the N.M. Kaufman collection (Rarecoa August 4, 1978, lot #39). In the Kaufman sale it states that other important consignments are added. I want to know if this lot is an added consignment or was it part of the Kaufman collection?

You probably have clear records and a clear memory of this. Would you be nice enough to enlighten me?

My best holiday greetings to both of you.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

Mr. Harry Boosel

January 20, 1993

Dear Harry:

I not only saw but carefully read and filed with your book the 1873 material in Coin World. It was well written.

The ANS large cent matter is slowly advancing. I will have another return in a week or so. Hopefully the publicity will change some reluctant minds.

As to my being secretary in 1939 of Central States I remember going to Burlington, Iowa with my wife soon after we were married to perform my secretarial duties at Central States and we had a catfish dinner and our hotel was next to a railroad switch yard which operated all night. My wife was shocked. I did not remember the Scrapbook article and thank you for it.

The information as to the proofing bar was relayed to Stacks. They indicated they would announce it at the sale. Thank you for your prompt help. If Milas could give you the name of the consignor in his sale in 1978 that would help. I do have the catalog.

Walter Breen is in poor shape again after a few months of comparative stability. His lawyer charged him \$2500 per week and that when the money stopped the services also did.

My granddaughter is at Clinton's Inaugural because her roommate at Harvard is Karenn Gore, the oldest daughter of the Vice President. One never knows what paths one crosses.

I hope you two have a warm but lively winter while we slide in the snow. Stay healthy and send me any numismatic gossip I should know.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman